

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electric camera comprising:
  - an imaging device which converts an optical image focused thereon into an electric signal;
  - a compressor which generates compressed image data of the electric signal stored in said first memory;
  - a memory which stores the compressed image data;
  - a decompressor which generates an electric signal from the compressed image data stored in the memory;
  - a progressive selection switch which directs progress of a reproducing image on a monitor;
  - a connector for coupling the electric camera with an external device; and
  - a control circuit which controls writing operations of the memory according to an external data access from the external device and reading operations of the memory according to an internal data access which occurred by operation of said progressive selection switch and which inhibits writing operations of the memory according to an external data access independent of an external access direction from the external device when the internal data access is being executed.